

Application No. 10/554,622
March 12, 2008
Reply to the Office Action dated December 18 2007
Page 6 of 7

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 9-13 and 26-28 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant amends the Title of the Invention and Claims 9-13, cancels Claims 6-8 and 14-25, and adds Claims 26-28.

Applicant's Claims 14-25 have been canceled because these claims were directed to a non-elected invention. Applicant reserves the right to file a Divisional Application to pursue prosecution of non-elected Claims 14-25.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that Claims 9 and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Title of the Invention has been amended to correspond to the Title of the Invention provided on the Substitute Specification filed on October 26, 2005.

Claims 6, 8, and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. (JP 2003-032061) taken together with Suzuki (JP 55-041048), wherein either reference can be modified by the other such that there is not a "primary" reference per se. Claims 6, 7, and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. taken together with Takezaki et al. (JP 60-176317).

Allowable Claim 9 has been amended to recite all of the features recited in Claim 6, allowable Claim 13 has been amended to recite all of the features recited in Claims 6 and 7, Claims 6-8 have been canceled, Claims 10-12 have been amended to depend upon Claim 9, and Claims 26-28, which correspond to Claims 10-12 but which depend upon Claim 13, have been added.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of Claim 6 over Kobayashi et al. and Suzuki and the rejection of Claim 6 over Kobayashi et al. and Takezaki et al. are moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 9 and 13 are allowable. Claims 10-12 and 26-28 depend upon Claims 9

Application No. 10/554,622

March 12, 2008

Reply to the Office Action dated December 18 2007

Page 7 of 7

and 13, and are therefore allowable for at least the reasons that Claims 9 and 13 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 12, 2008

/Christopher A. Bennett, #46,710/
Attorneys for Applicant

KEATING & BENNETT, LLP
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 850
Tyson's Corner, VA 22102
Telephone: (703) 637-1480
Facsimile: (703) 637-1499

Joseph R. Keating
Registration No. 37,368
Christopher A. Bennett
Registration No. 46,710